



WASHINGTON STATE PATROL Inspection and Trailer Requirements

REQUIREMENTS FOR A WASHINGTON STATE PATROL INSPECTION

If a trailer is homemade, all receipts for materials used in the manufacture of the trailer must be presented at the time of inspection along with an empty weight certificate.

If the trailer is made from vehicle parts, documentation must be present showing what vehicle or vehicle parts were used to manufacture the trailer including, but not limited to, frame, axle, pickup box, etc.

If there is no documentation for materials or parts, the State of Washington will issue a "Registration Only" for three years, then a Washington title can be requested.

TRAILER REQUIREMENTS

Maximum Length Allowed	53 feet; 56 feet with special permits
Maximum Overall Length of Trailer and Towing Vehicle	Truck and trailer combination – 75 feet Two trailing units – 61 feet; 68 feet with special permit
Maximum Width Allowed	102 inches (8 feet, 6 inches)
Maximum Height Allowed	14 feet

If the length, width, and/or height exceed the maximum limits, applications for permits to move such vehicles should be addressed to:

Department of Transportation
Motor Carrier Services
PO Box 47367
Olympia WA 98504-7367
Telephone: (360) 664-9494

TRAILER REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

Maximum Height Allowed

20,000 pounds on one axle
34,000 pounds on tandem axles

Tire Factor

600 pounds per inch width of tire

Axles manufactured after July 31, 1993, carrying more than 10,000 pounds and equipped with single tires may carry tire size x 500 pounds per inch width of tire.

Axles manufactured prior to August 1, 1993, carrying more than 10,000 pounds and equipped with single tires may carry tire size x 600 pounds per inch tire width. Effective January 1, 1997, the allowance is reduced to 500 pounds per inch.

TRAILER HITCHES – LIGHT SERVICE DEVICES

BREAKING STRENGTH FOR COUPLINGS AND BALLS

	Trailer Classification	Trailer Couplings Designation	Min. Ball Diameter – Inches (where ball-type hitch is used)	Min. Breaking Point Requirements	Pounds
Class 1	2,000 lbs or less *MGTW	No. 1	1 7/8	Longitudinal tension:	6,000
				Longitudinal compression:	6,000
				Traverse thrust:	2,000
				Vertical tension:	2,500
				Vertical compression:	2,500
Class 2	2,001 through 3,500 lbs MGWTW	No. 2	2	Longitudinal tension:	10,000
				Longitudinal compression:	10,000
				Traverse thrust:	3,000
				Vertical tension:	4,500
				Vertical compression:	4,500
Class 3	3,501 through 5,000 lbs MGWTW	No. 3	2	Longitudinal tension:	15,000
				Longitudinal compression:	15,000
				Traverse thrust:	4,000
				Vertical tension:	7,000
				Vertical compression:	7,000
Class 4	5001 through 10,000 lbs MGWTW	No. 4	Ball & bolt shall be of such size and strength as to conform to the minimum breaking strength requirements of the mating coupling required for the specific load of Class 4 trailer	Longitudinal tension:	MGTW x 3
				Longitudinal compression:	MGTW x 3
				Traverse thrust:	MGTW x 1
				Vertical tension:	MGTW x 1.3
				Vertical compression:	MGTW x 1.4

***MGTW – Maximum Gross Trailer Weight**

SAFETY CHAINS AND ATTACHING MEANS REQUIRED

Strength Requirements

Each safety chain and each attaching means shall meet strength requirements as shown in [WAC 204-70-99004](#), Tables 3 and 4, and defined in [WAC 204-70-040](#).

Installation and Connections

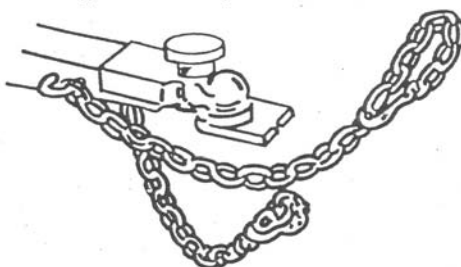
The means of attachment of safety chains shall be located equally distant from and on opposite sides of the longitudinal centerline of the towing vehicle and of the trailer. Each means of attachment shall not be common with or utilize fasteners common with a ball or coupling. No welding operation shall be performed on a safety chain subsequent to its manufacture, including the direct welding of safety chain link to the towed and towing vehicles. Safety chains shall be so connected that the slack for each length of chain between trailer and towing vehicle is the same and is not more than necessary to permit the proper turning of the vehicles. When passing forward to the towing vehicle, safety chains must be crossed in such a manner as to prevent the tongue from dropping to the ground and to maintain connection in the event of failure of the primary connecting system.

LIGHT SERVICE DEVICES –

MINIMUM STRENGTHS OF SAFETY CHAINS AND ATTACHING MEANS

Minimum Longitudinal Load, Tension, Pounds (see WAC 204-70-99005, Figure 3, below)		
Trailer Classification	Each Safety Chain	Each of Two Chain Attaching Means
Class 1	2,000	2,000
Class 2	3,500	3,500
Class 3	5,000	5,000
Class 4**	MGTW	MGTW

Typical Safety Chain Installation



Brakes

Every trailer having a gross weight exceeding 3,000 pounds must be equipped with brakes on all wheels and capable of being applied from the towing vehicle. Any trailer whose gross weight is over 3,000 pounds must be equipped with a device which will automatically apply the brakes in case of a breakaway.

Trailers with a gross weight of 3,000 pounds or less must be equipped with brakes if the weight of the trailer(s) exceeds 40 percent of the weight of the towing vehicle. Trailers manufactured and assembled prior to July 1, 1965, having a gross weight less than 2,000 pounds need not be equipped with brakes.

Lights

Two red tail lamps, one located near each side on the rear of the trailer. Two stop lamps at the rear which may be in conjunction with the tail lamp units. The license plate shall be illuminated by a white lamp which may be in conjunction with either tail lamp. Two red reflectors, one located near each side of the rear of the trailer.

On trailers over 80 inches in width, two red clearance lamps on the rear located at the highest and widest points of the permanent structure, and three red identification lamps on the rear located near the top of the permanent structure of the trailer as close as practical to the vertical center-line.

On trailers 30 feet or more in overall length, on each side, one amber side marker lamp and one amber reflector, centrally located with respect to the length of the trailer.

Splash Guards

A device behind each tire that minimizes wheel spray. The device (fenders or flaps) must extend downward to the center of the axle and be as wide as the tire behind which it is mounted.

Turn Signals

Electrical turn signals operated from the towing vehicle are required.

Serial Number	Required for registration in state. May be stamped by the manufacturer onto a conspicuous permanent part upon the outside of the trailer, or placed on a manufacturer tag where it may be easily inspected.
License Plate	Required on all trailers regardless of size.
Certificate of Registration	Issued to trailers registered in Washington.
Certificate of Title	Issued to trailers registered in Washington.
Parking Off Highway for an Overnight Stay	Not permissible on interstate freeways.
Towing Vehicle	It is permissible to use a commercial type vehicle to tow a trailer coach. The towing vehicle must be able to maintain a speed which will not impede traffic.
Times of Operation	It is permissible to tow a legal size trailer at all times in this state, including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Over-legal size trailers will be restricted to the times and highways indicated on the over-legal permit.
Riding in Trailers	Illegal.
Fuel Restrictions	Gasoline stoves: None. Butane tanks: None.
State Regulations in Regard to Sanitary Equipment	None.

Mobile Homes	Requirements same as trailer coaches.
General Speed	Every person operating any vehicle shall obey all posted speed limits and drive at a speed no greater than is reasonable and proper under conditions existing, weight of vehicle, and type of highway.
Non-Resident	Licensing regulations will be governed by the reciprocity agreement in effect with the non-resident's home state. Visitors temporarily sojourning are allowed six months.